

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. Enclosed herewith is a Clean Version of the Amended Claims incorporating the following amendments.

1. (Hereby Cancelled).

2. (Hereby Cancelled).

3. (Hereby Cancelled).

4. (Hereby Cancelled).

1. 5. (Once Amended) [The] An umbrella apparatus [according to claim 1, further] comprising:

a base support portion;

a pole portion coupled to the base support portion;

a canopy portion hingedly coupled to the pole portion;

a rechargeable electrical power system for providing electrical power to the umbrella apparatus;

a solar energy system carried by the pole portion above the canopy portion, the solar energy system being adapted to collect solar energy and convert the solar energy into electrical energy, the solar energy system being conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system, such that the solar energy collected and converted into electrical energy recharges the rechargeable electrical power system;
and

an electrical charging system for recharging the rechargeable electrical power system, the electrical charging system being adapted to receive power from an AC power outlet.

2. ~~8.~~ (Once Amended) [The] An umbrella apparatus [according to claim 1, further] comprising:

a base support portion;

a pole portion coupled to the base support portion;

a canopy portion hingedly coupled to the pole portion;

a rechargeable electrical power system for providing electrical power to the umbrella apparatus;

a solar energy system carried by the pole portion above the canopy portion, the solar energy system being adapted to collect solar energy and convert the solar energy into electrical energy, the solar energy system being conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system, such that the solar energy collected and converted into electrical energy recharges the rechargeable electrical power system;
and

a lighting system carried by the canopy portion, the lighting system being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power system.

3. ~~7.~~ (Not Amended) The umbrella apparatus according to claim ~~6~~², wherein the lighting system comprises:

a plurality of rib members coupled to the canopy portion; and

a plurality of cold cathode tube elements carried by the rib members, each cold cathode tube element being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power source.

4. ~~8.~~ (Not Amended) The umbrella apparatus according to claim ~~6~~², wherein the lighting system comprises:

a plurality of rib members coupled to the canopy portion; and

a plurality of light emitting diode elements carried by the rib members, each light emitting diode element being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power source.

5. ~~8.~~ (Not Amended) The umbrella apparatus according to claim ~~6~~², wherein the lighting system comprises:

a plurality of rib members coupled to the canopy portion; and
a plurality of fluorescent light elements carried by the rib members, each fluorescent light element being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power source.

6. ~~10.~~ (Once Amended) [The] An umbrella apparatus [according to claim 1, further] comprising:

a base support portion;
a pole portion coupled to the base support portion;
a canopy portion hingedly coupled to the pole portion;
a rechargeable electrical power system for providing electrical power to the umbrella apparatus;

a solar energy system carried by the pole portion above the canopy portion, the solar energy system being adapted to collect solar energy and convert the solar energy into electrical energy, the solar energy system being conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system, such that the solar energy collected and converted into electrical energy recharges the rechargeable electrical power system;
and

an electromechanical opening and closing system for opening and closing the canopy portion, the electromechanical opening and closing system being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power system.

7. ~~11.~~ (Not Amended) The umbrella apparatus according to claim ~~10~~⁴, wherein the electromechanical opening and closing system comprises:

an electric motor carried by the pole portion;
a control system for controlling the electric motor;
a gear system coupled to the electric motor; and
a cable and pulley system coupled to the gear system and the canopy portion;

wherein the opening and closing of the canopy portion is achieved by the electric motor in response to selective operation of the control system.

8. ~~12.~~ ⁷ (Once Amended) The umbrella apparatus according to claim ~~11~~, wherein the control system comprises:

a receiver conductively coupled to the electric motor;
a remote transmitter for transmitting an encoded signal to the receiver; and
a decoder conductively coupled to the receiver for decoding the encoded signal [fro] from the transmitter.

13. (Hereby Cancelled).

14. (Hereby Cancelled).

9. ~~15.~~ (Once Amended) [The] An umbrella apparatus [according to claim 13, wherein the cooling system comprises] comprising:

a base support portion;
a pole portion coupled to the base support portion;
a canopy portion hingedly coupled to the pole portion;
a rechargeable electrical power system for providing electrical power to the umbrella apparatus;

a solar energy system carried by the pole portion above the canopy portion, the solar energy system being adapted to collect solar energy and convert the solar energy into electrical energy, the solar energy system being conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system, such that the solar energy collected and converted into electrical energy recharges the rechargeable electrical power system;
and

a cooling system carried by the canopy portion, the cooling system being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power system, the cooling system comprising:

a fluid reservoir operably associated with the umbrella apparatus;

at least one mist nozzle coupled to the canopy portion, each mist nozzle being in fluid communication with the fluid;

a conduit creating fluid communication between the fluid reservoir and each mist nozzle; and

a pump for pumping the fluid from the reservoir through each mist nozzle.

¹⁰ 10. (Allowed) An umbrella apparatus comprising:

a base support portion;

a pole portion coupled to the base support portion;

a canopy portion hingedly coupled to the pole portion;

a rechargeable electrical power system for providing electrical power to the umbrella apparatus;

a solar energy system carried by the pole portion above the canopy portion, the solar energy system being adapted to collect solar energy and convert the solar energy into electrical energy, the solar energy system being conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system, such that the solar energy collected and converted into electrical energy recharges the rechargeable electrical power system; and

a combination of two or more of the following modular systems:

a lighting system carried by the canopy portion;

an electromechanical opening and closing system for opening and closing the canopy portion; or

a cooling system;

wherein each modular system is configured to be interchanged with each other, each modular system being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power system.

¹⁰ 11 17. (Allowed) The umbrella apparatus according to claim ¹⁰ 10, wherein the lighting system comprises:

a plurality of rib members coupled to the canopy portion; and

a plurality of cold cathode tube elements carried by the rib members, each cold

cathode tube element being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power source.

12. ~~18~~¹⁰ (Allowed) The umbrella apparatus according to claim ~~16~~¹⁰, wherein the lighting system comprises:

- a plurality of rib members coupled to the canopy portion; and
- a plurality of light emitting diode elements carried by the rib members, each light emitting diode element being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power source.

13. ~~18~~¹⁰ (Allowed) The umbrella apparatus according to claim ~~16~~¹⁰, wherein the cooling system comprises:

- a fluid reservoir operably associated with the umbrella apparatus;
- at least one mist nozzle coupled to the canopy portion, each mist nozzle being in fluid communication with the fluid;
- a conduit creating fluid communication between the fluid reservoir and each mist nozzle; and
- a pump for pumping the fluid from the reservoir through each mist nozzle.

14. ~~20~~¹⁰ (Allowed) The umbrella apparatus according to claim ~~16~~¹⁰, wherein the electromechanical opening and closing system comprises:

- an electric motor carried by the pole portion;
- a control system for controlling the electric motor;
- a gear system coupled to the electric motor; and
- a cable and pulley system coupled to the gear system and the canopy portion;

wherein the opening and closing of the canopy portion is achieved by the electric motor in response to selective operation of the control system.